

THIRD COLLEGE EDITION

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# Webster's New World<sup>TM</sup> Dictionary

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OF AMERICAN ENGLISH

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Webster's New World  
New York

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*Dedicated  
to David B. Guralnik  
lexicographical mentor  
and friend*

Webster's New World Dictionary, Third College Edition

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see STRONG INTERAC-

2 lacking in courage,

physical strength or  
ak —adv. in a weak

nd; indecisive; unable  
leminded 3 showing  
d decision/ —weak-

being weak 2 a weak  
a) a liking; esp., an  
thing of which one is  
—SYN. FAULT  
le of the court with  
ve line having fewer

eliable; etc.  
ridge raised on the

ll-being; akin to OS:  
us state; well-being;  
the body politic  
(ME *weald*), forest,  
[Old; Poet.] 1 a  
Weald region in SE  
avily forested  
see WEAL<sup>2</sup> & -TH<sup>1</sup>  
worldly possessions;  
operty; affluence (a  
ning); abundance (a  
or derivatives (the  
5 Econ. a) every-  
price B) any useful  
stocked for future

1 having, wealth;  
y, or suggestive of  
ed) /talk wealthy in  
th-ness n.  
pple  
custom, train; with  
wenian < IE base  
ove] 1 to cause (a  
gradually to food  
ckling; now, often,  
with a nipple 2 to  
object of affection,  
r interest 3 to be  
tomed to: with on

3] [Scot. or North  
s just been wanned

akin to Ger *waffe*,  
1 an instrument or  
ting or hunting 2  
ng or defending 3  
he law/ —weap-

gn and production

esign and produc-  
tion's stockpile of

: OE *werian*, akin  
wes-, to clothe \*  
] 1 a) to have on  
weapon, etc.) b)  
the heavy weight  
as to be in style  
have or allow to  
wearing an allu-  
son habitually for  
ic or attributive  
ow (its flag) used  
by constant win-  
ing by use of a  
cannon, or previous  
to wear a hat (a  
son) 10 in pass-  
-ve, 1 to become  
use, friction, the  
use as a synonym  
wears well 3 to  
oring thing 4 to  
f time (the same  
fect (as) putting  
or the same  
ing, on the ship  
between 5 to  
gradual change  
the ground  
from sea level

tion, etc. /a lot of wear left in the tire/ —wear down: 1 to make or become worn; lose or cause to lose thickness or heights by use, friction, etc. 2 to tire out; or exhaust (a person); weary 3 to overcome the resistance of by persistence —wear off: to pass away or diminish by degrees —wear out: 1 to make or become useless from continued wear or use 2 to waste or consume by degrees 3 to tire out; exhaust —wear the pants (or trousers) [Colloq.] to have the greatest authority in a family —wear<sup>1</sup> n.

wear<sup>2</sup> (wer) vt. wore, worn, wearing [? altered (infl. by prec.) < VERB<sup>1</sup>] to turn or bring (a vessel) about by swinging its bow away from the wind; veer: opposed to TACK (ut. 4a) —vi. to turn or come about by having the bow swung away from the wind —n. the act of wearing a ship

Wear (wir) river in Durham, N England, flowing northeast into the North Sea: 67 mi. (107 km)

wear-able (weə'ə bəl) adj. that can be worn; suitable for wear —n. [pl.] wearable things; garments; clothing —wearability n.

wear and tear loss and damage resulting from use  
wear-ful (wir'fəl) adj. that makes weary; tiresome —wear-fully adv. —wear-fulness n.

wear-less (wir'ə lis) adj. unwearied; tireless —wear-lessly adv. —wear-lessness n.

wear-iness (-ē nis) n. 1 the condition or quality of being weary; fatigue or tedious 2 something that wears

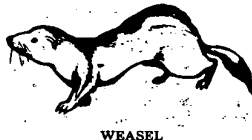
wear-ing (wer'in) adj. 1 of or intended for wear [wearing apparel] 2 causing wear, or gradual impairment or diminution 3 wearying; tiring —wearingly adv.

wear-some (wir'səm) adj. causing weariness; tiring, tiresome, or tedious —wear-somely adv.

wear-proof (wer'pruf) adj. resistant to normal wear or the effects of continued use

weary (wē'ri) adj. -rier, -riest [ME *weri* < OE *werig*, akin to OHG *uwarig*, drunk < IE base \**wōr-*, giddiness; faintness > Gr *hōrakian*, to be giddy] 1 tired; worn out 2 without further liking, patience, tolerance, zeal; etc.; bored: with of [weary of jokes] 3 tiring [weary work] 4 irksome; tedious; tiresome [his weary explanation] —vt. vi. -ried, -rying to make or become weary —SYN. TIRED —wear-ri-ly adv. —wear-ri-ness n.

weasel (wē'zəl) n., pl. -sels or -sel [ME *wesol* < OE *wesle*, akin to Ger *wiesel*, prob. < IE base \**weis-*, to flow out (with reference to the rank odor emitted by the animal) > VIRUS, BISON] 1 any of various agile musteline carnivores (esp. genus *Mustela*) with a long, slender body, short legs, and a long, bushy tail: they feed on rats, mice, birds, eggs, etc., and are worldwide 2 a sly, cunning, or sneaky person —vi. 1 to use weasel words 2 [Colloq.] to avoid or evade a commitment or responsibility: with out —weasel-ly adj.



WEASEL

\*weasel words [prob. in allusion to the weasel's habit of sucking out the contents of an egg without destroying the shell] words or remarks that are equivocal or deliberately ambiguous or misleading  
weather (weth'ər) n. [ME *weder* < OE, akin to ON *wethr*, Ger *wetter* < IE base \**we-*, "awe", to blow > WIND<sup>2</sup>, OSlav *vedro*, fair weather] 1 the general condition of the atmosphere at a particular time and place, with regard to the temperature, moisture, cloudiness, etc. 2 disagreeable or harmful atmospheric conditions; storm, rain, etc. [protected against the weather] —vt. 1 to expose to the action of weather or atmosphere, as for airing, drying, seasoning, etc. 2 to wear away, discolored, disintegrate, or otherwise change for the worse by exposure to the atmosphere 3 to pass through safely or survive [to weather a storm] 4 to slope (masonry, cornices, sills, etc.) so as to allow water to run off 5 Naut. to pass to the windward of (a cape, reef, etc.) —vi. 1 to become discolored, disintegrated, etc. by exposure to the weather or atmosphere 2 to endure such exposure in a specified manner [canvas that weathers well] —adj. 1 designating or of the side of a ship, etc. toward the wind; windward 2 exposed to the elements [weather deck] —under the weather [Colloq.] 1 not feeling well; somewhat sick; ailing 2 somewhat drunk —weather through to pass or go safely through a storm, peril, difficulty, etc.  
weather-beaten (-bēt'n) adj. showing the effect of weather, as a) stained, damaged, or worn down b) sunburned, roughened, etc. (said of a person, one's face, etc.)

weather-board (-bōrd') n. 1 a) CLAPBOARD b) weatherboards collectively 2 Naut. the windward side of a ship —vt. to cover with weatherboards

weather-board-ing (-bōrd'ing) n. weatherboards collectively  
weather-bound (-bound') adj. delayed or halted by bad weather, as a ship, airplane, etc.

\*Weather Bureau old name for NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
weather-cock (-kāk') n. 1 a weather vane in the shape of a rooster 2 a fickle or changeable person or thing

weather-ed (weth'əd) adj. 1 seasoned by the weather; stained, worn, or beaten by the weather 2 given a stained or discolored finish intended to resemble that produced by exposure to the weather 3 Archit. made sloping, as sills, so as to shed water

weather-eye 1 an eye alert to signs of changing weather 2 a close watch for change of any kind [to keep a weather eye on a touchy situation] —keep one's weather eye open to be on the alert; stay on guard

weather-glass (weth'ər glas') n. BAROMETER (sense 1)

weather-ing (-ing) n. 1 Archit. a slope built to shed water 2 Geol. the physical and chemical effects of the forces of weather on rock surfaces, as in forming soil, sand, etc.

## 1513

## wearer / Weber

\*weather-ize (-iz') vt. -ized, -izing [WEATHER + -IZE] to weather-  
strip, insulate, etc. (a building); as in order to conserve heat —  
weather-ization n.

weather-ly (-lē) adj. Naut. that can sail close to the wind with very  
little drift to leeward —weather-iness n.

weather-man (-man') n., pl. -men' (-man') \*a person who forecasts  
the weather, or, esp., one who reports weather conditions and fore-  
casts, as on television

\*weather map a map or chart showing the condition of the weather  
in a certain area at a given time by indicating barometric pressures,  
temperatures, wind direction, etc.

weather-proof (-proof) adj. that can be exposed to wind, rain, snow,  
etc. without being damaged —vt. to make weatherproof

weather station a post or office where weather conditions are  
recorded and studied and forecasts are made

\*weather-strip (-strip') n. a thin strip of metal, felt, wood, etc., used  
to cover the joint between a door or window sash and the jamb,  
casing, or sill so as to keep out drafts, rain, etc. Also weather strip  
—vt. -stripped, -stripping to fit or provide with weatherstrips

\*weather-stripping (-strip'in) n. 1 WEATHERSTRIP 2 weatherstrips  
collectively

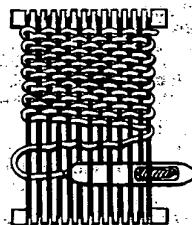
weather vane a vane that swings in the wind to show the direction  
from which the wind is blowing

weather-wise (-wiz') adj. 1 skilled in predicting the weather 2  
skilled in predicting shifts of opinion, feeling, etc.

weather-worn (-wōrn') adj. WEATHER-BEATEN

weave (wēv) vt. wove or, chiefly for vt. 6 & vi. 2, weaved, wove or  
wove or, chiefly for vt. 6 & vi. 2, weaved, wove or

weaved, weaving [ME *weven* < OE  
wefan, akin to ON *vefa*, Ger *weben* <  
IE \**webh-* (> Gr *huphē*) < base  
\*(a)we-, to plait, weave] 1 a) to make  
(a fabric), esp. on a loom, by interlac-  
ing threads or yarns b) to form  
(threads) into a fabric 2 a) to con-  
struct in the mind or imagination b)  
to work (details, incidents, etc.) into a  
story, poem, etc. 3 a) to make by  
interlacing twigs, straw, rush, wicker,  
etc. /to weave baskets/ b) to twist or  
interlace (straw, wicker, etc.) so as to  
form something 4 to twist or inter-  
lace (something) into, through, or  
among /to weave flowers into one's  
hair/ 5 to make or spin (a web): said of spiders, etc. 6 a) to cause (a  
vehicle, etc.) to move from side to side or in and out b) to make  
(one's way) by moving in this fashion —vi. 1 to do weaving; make  
cloth 2 to move from side to side or in and out [weaving through  
traffic] —n. a method, manner, or pattern of weaving [a cloth of  
English weave]



WEAVING

weaver (wē'vər) n. 1 a person who weaves; esp., one whose work is  
weaving 2 WEAVER FINCH

weaver-bird (-bārd') n. WEAVER FINCH  
weaver finch any of a number of Old World finches (family  
Ploceidae) that weave elaborate domed nests of sticks, grass, and  
other vegetation

weaver's hitch (or knot) SHEET BEND

web (web) n. [ME < OE *webb*, akin to ON *vefr*, OHG *weppi* < IE  
\**webh-*, to weave] 1 any woven fabric; esp., a length of cloth being  
woven on a loom or just taken off 2 a) the woven or spun network of  
a spider; cobweb b) a similar network spun by the larvae of certain  
insects 3 a carefully woven trap or snare 4 a complicated work of  
the mind; imagination; etc. [a web of lies] 5 anything like a web, as  
in intricacy of pattern; interconnection of elements, etc.; network 6  
Anat. a) tissue or membrane b) an abnormal membrane joining  
fingers or toes at the base 7 Archit. the portion of a ribbed vault  
between the ribs 8 Mech. the plate joining the flanges of a joint,  
girder, rail, etc. 9 Printing a large roll of paper for continuously  
feeding a type of rotary press (web press) 10 Zool. a) the vane of a  
feather b) a membrane partly or completely joining the digits of  
various water birds, water animals, etc. —vt. webbed, webbing: 1  
to join by or as by a web 2 to cover with or as with a web 3 to catch  
or snare in or as in a web —web-like' adj.

Webb (web) 1 Beatrice (Potter) 1858-1943; Eng. economist & social-  
ist reformer: wife of Sidney James 2 Sidney (James) 1st Baron  
Passfield 1859-1947; Eng. economist & socialist reformer

webbed (webd) adj. 1 formed like a web or made of webbing 2  
joined by a web [webbed toes] 3 having the digits joined by a web /a  
webbed foot/

webbing (web'ing) n. 1 a strong, tough fabric, as of jute or cotton,  
woven in strips and used for belts, in upholstery, etc. 2 a membrane  
joining the digits, as of a duck, goose, frog, etc. 3 a part like this, as  
between the thumb and forefinger of a baseball glove 4 a netlike  
structure of interwoven cord, etc., as the strung part of rackets

webby (-ē) adj. web-bier, web-biest 1 of, having the nature of, or  
like a web 2 webbed or palmate

weber (wē'bər, vā'bər) n. [after Wilhelm Eduard WEBER] the practi-  
cal mks unit of magnetic flux, equal to 10<sup>8</sup> maxwells: abbrev. Wb

Weber (vā'bər, for 4, wē'bər) 1 Carl Maria (Friedrich Ernst) von  
(mā rē'ā fōn) 1786-1826; Ger. composer 2 Ernst Heinrich (ernst

at, āte, cār, ten, ēve, is, icē, gō, hōrn, look, tōōl; oil, out; up,  
fur, a for unstressed vowels, as in ago, u in focus; as in Latin  
(lat'w); chin; she; zh as in azure (azh'ər); thin, the; n as in ring (rīn)  
In etymologies: \* = unattested; < = derived from; > = from which  
\* = Americanism

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